

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of December 7, 2004 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks directed thereto.

Claims 1-40 and 43-49 are pending in the present application. In the Amendment:

claim 1 is amended to omit the recitation "such as a wallpaper printer";

claim 1 is further amended to recite that the moving web is allowed to descend into the compartment so as to adopt a suspended partial loop and that the heated air is blown from above the opening into the compartment so as to dry printing on the suspended partial loop of the media web;

claim 9 is cancelled in conformance with amended claim 1; and

claims 2-8, 10-40 and 43-49 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Preliminary Amendment

The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge that the Reply to Notice of Omitted Item(s) dated July 26, 2004 has been entered in the present application.

Specification Objections

The Applicant respectfully disagrees that it is necessary to amend the disclosure provided in the present specification to include the material incorporated by reference from PCT Application No. PCT/AU98/00550 (the Applicant has assumed that this is the cross-reference the Examiner is referring to since the present specification does not include a reference to PCT Application No. PCT/AU99/00551), for at least the following reasons.

In the present specification at page 40, lines 29-32 it is described that in the embodiment shown in the drawings, the printer to which the dryer of the claimed invention is applicable is one which uses one of the Applicant's Memjet™ printheads. It is further described that a typical example of these printheads is shown in PCT Application No. PCT/AU98/00550. The entire contents of this reference are then incorporated. However, contrary to the Examiner's contention, even though this incorporation is made further and complete description of an exemplary printhead is provided.

That is, at page 40, line 33-page 41, line 8 of the present specification an exemplary printhead which is a Memjet™ printhead is specifically described with reference to Figs. 5-7. This printhead is described in much greater detail from page 45, line 4 to page 81, line 34 with reference to Figs. 21-73. Furthermore, specific description of the exemplary printhead integrated circuit assemblies using the Memjet™ technology is given at page 72, line 12-page 76, line 36 and shown in Figs. 63-73. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that sufficient description is provided regarding the printhead of the present invention and as such it is unnecessary to include any additional information from PCT Application No. PCT/AU98/00550.

Having said this, it is noted that only dependent claims 19-28 are specifically directed to the form and operation of the printhead itself. It is further noted that the features of claims 19-28 are fully supported at page 40, lines 33-40 and page 66, line 1-page 67, line 13 of the present specification.

Information Disclosure Statement Objections

In response to the Examiner's indication that the French reference information disclosure submission, FR 2604120 to Millisseau et al., filed with the Information Disclosure Statement dated October 6, 2004 has not been considered since the submission does not include a translation or explanation of relevance, the Applicant has attached herewith the abstract of FR 2604120 and the International Search Report of the corresponding PCT Application No. PCT/AU2004/000073 to the present application in which the French reference was first brought to the attention of the Applicant.

As can be seen from the International Search Report, FR 2604120 was raised as an "A" document against claim 1 of the PCT application. Claim 1 of the PCT application is also attached for the Examiner's reference. Claim 1 of the PCT application is in no way directed to a dryer for a printer and therefore does not have a scope similar to the claims of the present application. As such, it is clear from both the abstract of FR 2604120 and the International Search Report that FR 2604120 has no relevance to the claims of the present application, and was merely included in the Information Disclosure Statement dated October 6, 2004 by the Applicant because of the raising of this reference in the International Search Report.

35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph Rejections

As described above, claim 1 has been amended to omit the recitation "such as a wallpaper printer". Thus, the indefiniteness of the claimed invention indicated by the Examiner due to the phrase "such as" in claim 1 has been removed.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Novelty

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended claim 1, and therefore claims 2-4, 7, 9-17, 30-34, 36-39 and 47-49 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Stoffel et al. (USP 6,412,990), for at least the following reasons.

Pending claim 1 is directed to a method of drying a moving media web in a printer. As recited, the dryer used in the method itself has a compartment with a top opening for receiving a media web fed from the printer, and a source of heated air for blowing heated air into the opening. This arrangement is shown clearly in Fig. 5 of the present application where the media web extends from cartridge 400 past printhead 500 and through dryer 318 to tote 208. The dryer 318 has a drying compartment 520 with an opening 506 which is covered by a rotating door 508 (see page 41, line 16-page 42, line 5 of the present specification and also Figs. 8 and 9).

Contrary to the Examiner's contentions, Stoffel does not disclose such drying method. Stoffel discloses a photofinishing or developing apparatus 410 having a path for a photographic film 13,18 which passes nozzles 412,414 for developing the film and a dryer 416 for drying the developed film. The dryer 416 itself has a blower 418 arranged to blow air past a heating element 420 such that heated air is impinged on the film (see col. 14, lines 13-28 of Stoffel).

As can be seen from Fig. 16 of Stoffel, the dryer 416 is arranged with a compartment which houses both the blower 418 and the heating element 420. This is different from the dryer of the present invention as clearly seen from Figs. 5-9 of the present application. Particularly, the source of heated air in Stoffel is arranged to blow heated air out of the opening of the compartment of the dryer 416 which receives the film 13,18 and not into the opening of the compartment as required by pending claim 1.

Therefore, the subject matter of pending independent claim 1, and claims 2-8, 10-40 and 43-49 dependent therefrom, is not anticipated by the disclosure of Stoffel.

Non-Obviousness

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the above-discussed distinctions between the drying method of the present invention and the dryer of Stoffel. That is, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the moving web is allowed to descend into the compartment so as to adopt a suspended partial loop and that the heated air is blown from above the opening into the compartment so as to dry printing on the suspended partial loop of the media web. This arrangement is clearly shown in Figs. 6 and 7 of the present application where, during printing, the door 508 is opened so that the media web descends into the compartment 520 to define a loop portion which is suspended within the compartment from each end. This provides additional path length and drying time (see page 41, line 16-page 42, line 5 of the present specification).

The compartment of the dryer 318 in Stoffel is not arranged so that the film 13,18 can be received within the compartment, let alone received so as to form a suspended partial loop. Further, there is no suggestion from the disclosure of Stoffel that such an arrangement is useful to provide a longer drying time for the developed film 13,18.

Therefore, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-8, 10-40 and 43-47 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Stoffel.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

Claims 5 and 6

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 5 and 6 is not taught or suggested by Stoffel in view of Griffith (USP 4,871,406) for at least the above and following reasons.

Griffith does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in Stoffel. In the system of Griffith the drying section 27 is merely a platform region in which a raised temperature used to form a corrugated

cardboard web 10,22 is maintained by hot plates (see col. 4, lines 37-43, col. 6, lines 22-39 and Fig. 1 of Griffith). Griffith does not teach or suggest a drying method using a dryer arranged as required by amended claim 1.

Therefore, the subject matter of claims 5 and 6, which are dependent from amended claim 1, is not taught or suggested by Stoffel in view of Griffith.

Claim 8

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claim 8 is not taught or suggested by Stoffel in view of Chaudhuri (USP 4,202,723) for at least the above and following reasons.

Chaudhuri does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in Stoffel. Contrary to the Examiner's contention, the temperature sensor 70,71 disclosed by Chaudhuri is for monitoring a bonding temperature which is needed to bond paperboard and not for monitoring a temperature of a dryer (see col. 6, lines 40-55 and Fig. 1 of Chaudhuri). Chaudhuri does not even suggest arranging a dryer in the system, let alone a drying method using a dryer arranged as required by amended claim 1.

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 8, which is dependent from amended claim 1, is not taught or suggested by Stoffel in view of Chaudhuri.

Claims 18, 29, 35 and 39-41

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 18, 29, 35, 40 and 43-46 is not taught or suggested by Stoffel in view of Silverbrook (USP 6,180,427) for at least the above and following reasons.

Silverbrook does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in Stoffel. Silverbrook merely discloses a thermally actuated ink jet printing nozzle and its manufacture (see abstract of Silverbrook). Silverbrook does not teach or suggest providing a dryer for a printer using the printing nozzle, let alone a drying method using a dryer arranged as required by amended claim 1.

Therefore, the subject matter of claims 18, 29, 35, 40 and 43-46, which are dependent from amended claim 1, is not taught or suggested by Stoffel in view of Silverbrook.

Claims 19-28

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 19-28 is not taught or suggested by Stoffel for at least the above and following reasons.

As discussed above, Stoffel does not teach or suggest a drying method in which the moving web is allowed to descend into the compartment so as to adopt a suspended partial loop and heated air is blown from above the opening into the compartment so as to dry printing on the suspended partial loop of the media web.

Therefore, the subject matter of claims 19-28, which are dependent from amended claim 1, is not taught or suggested by Stoffel.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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